

## Comments from the Conference Minister

Heidi Regier Kreider



Last August in a WDC weekly *Sprouts* newsletter article, I offered a friendly challenge for all WDC members to share in financial support for Western District Conference. I highlighted our budget goals and a recent roof repair on our office building that will require future loan payments.

Several days later, I received a phone call from a member of a family administering a charitable bequest gift to WDC on behalf of their parents. (A charitable bequest gift is a gift out of a person's will or trust, following their death). The family wondered if they might designate this gift toward WDC's roof repair project. What a timely and providential gift that was! And how grateful we are for this generous contribution that supports the important ministries taking place under the roof of our facility. These include the Resource Library, committee meetings, pastors' gatherings, meetings of groups from local congregations, staff office activities, and more.

In addition to the gift designated for the roof repair project, this past year WDC also received several other bequest gifts, for a total of \$152,000 in 2019. According to WDC policy, undesignated bequest gifts to WDC of \$500 or more are directed to the WDC Bequest Fund, from which 10% is annually transferred into our operating fund. (By action of the Executive Board, up to 20% of the Bequest Fund may be allocated in the event other sources of income are less than is needed to meet current year expenses).

We give thanks for the foresight and tremendous generosity of donors who have blessed WDC in this way! We also encourage you to consider planned giving as a way to witness to your faith, practice biblical stewardship, and continue supporting church ministries beyond your lifetime.



Everence is one organization that can help with this planning. In a recent issue of the Everence magazine *Everyday Stewardship*, Stewardship Consultant Mitch Stutzman offers helpful information about end-of-life gift planning. He notes that one of the simplest ways to make planned gifts to causes and organizations that you value is to incorporate a charitable gift into your will or trust. You say in

your will or trust that a portion of your assets should go to the charitable causes and organizations that you identify. Charitable bequests have several advantages. For example, you may be able to reduce estate and inheritance taxes because charitable bequests are deductible from your estate. Best of all, you'll know that the support you've given to important causes during your life will also continue after you are gone.

We appreciate your partnership in WDC's mission, as we empower Anabaptist Mennonite congregations to Witness and invite others to faith in Jesus Christ, Dwell in just and loving relationships, and Connect to God's mission in the world. Thank you for your generous support this year, and in the years to come!

## Coming Events

The WDC Office & Resource Library will be closed for the holidays: Dec 23-Jan 1, 2020

Jan 11: Youth Lead Now, Faith Mennonite Church, Newton KS

Jan 24: Let's Talk... Women, Money and Faith, Tabor Mennonite Church, Newton KS

July 31-Aug 2: WDC Annual Assembly, Camp Copass, Denton TX

# WDC Garden

Stories from Western District Conference  
December 2019/January/February 2020



## Glimpses of a new year

This issue of *Garden* marks the beginning of a new church year with Advent (December 1), a new calendar year (January 1) and WDC's new fiscal year (February 1). In this season we anticipate the coming of Christ and prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth. We open ourselves to the mystery of God's future, and to the presence of Jesus, God's Word made flesh here and now in the midst of our current lives and contexts. We consider what new things are emerging, and how we are being invited to join God's work. As we anticipate the new year in WDC, here are some things to look forward to:



Women are invited to "Let's Talk... Women, Money & Faith," a special event hosted by Western District Women in Mission, January 24-25 at Tabor Mennonite Church, Newton, KS. This will feature speakers from Everence who will address money and faith topics for women of all ages and stages of life. Look for more information soon on Facebook

or at the WDWM web page at <https://communicationswdwm.wixsite.com/wdwm>.

Youth are encouraged to consider attending *Youth Lead Now*, a leadership training event January 11 at Faith Mennonite Church, Newton, KS, sponsored by the Bi-Conference Youth Ministry Committee of WDC and South Central Conference. This one-day workshop is designed for high school youth to enrich leadership skills and deepen faith, using an adaptive leadership framework and spiritual practices. Congregations are encouraged to send youth who have been affirmed for leadership gifts and potential. The registration fee is \$50 (scholarships available upon request). Youth can register at <https://forms.gle/fWQ2BVjybMVtzKsC8>

*Youth Lead Now* is one of several initiatives building on the joint WDC/SCC Leadership Transformation Grant from Kansas Leadership Center (KLC) in Wichita, KS. In 2020, our continuing grant will again cover registration cost for a number of WDC members to attend training sessions in KLC's three primary leadership programs. More information will be available soon, about how to apply for a training spot through our grant. The WDC/SCC Core Team for our KLC grant also plans to host an anniversary event

Western District Conference is a regional grouping of Mennonite Church USA congregations located in Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

Western District Conference

PO Box 306, 2517 N Main, North Newton, KS 67117



316-283-6300

[wdc@mennowdc.org](mailto:wdc@mennowdc.org)

[www.mennowdc.org](http://www.mennowdc.org)

